GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Yeddyurappa Shri B. S.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of essential commodities including those monitored by Price Monitoring Cell continued to rise over a period of time despite various steps taken by the Government, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the Government has received all necessary information/logistics on price trends during the last three years, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to check hoarding and ensure compliance with various rules related to supply of essential commodities and price control by the States, if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
(d) whether any assessment has been made about impact of water shortage on prices and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.* 222 FOR 10.05.2016 REGARDING RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

(a) : Prices of most of the essential food items monitored by Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) has remained relatively stable or declined over the year. The food items which showed an increase in prices include pulses (especially tur, urad and chana), potato and sugar. Increase in prices of food items is mainly on account of shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities and artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing. The details are at Annnexure I.

(b) : Yes sir. The requisite information is given at Annexure II & III.

(c) : States have been advised to take effective action against hoarders of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act 1980. States/UTs have been conducting raids and seized pulses are being disposed, as per the provisions under the EC Act, 1955. The Action Taken Report is given at Annexure IV.

(d) : Water shortage adversely affects the sown area and productivity of crops. The resultant shortfall in production in turn affects the quantum of market arrivals and thereby prices. However, no official assessment of direct impact of water shortage on prices has been made.

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